

CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD 10 MARCH 2020

President **Graham Harker** opened the proceedings at 19.35 hours and welcomed the fourteen members and three guests to the meeting before introducing the speaker **David Milsted** to present his display of “**GB Army Overprints**”.



The rare original Post Office Circular “War Office Overprints” dated 25 August 1896 set out the basis of the “Army Official Overprints” issue. **David** proceeded to show examples of the stamps both mint and used, with outstanding postmarks of a very high standard and clarity. Large mint blocks were much in evidence.. All the different printings were on show together with many varieties which were well illustrated with enlargements which left you in no doubt as to what the variety was. Material of such high quality and rarity, covering a relatively short period from 1896 to 1904, was a delight to see.

Fine examples of these stamps used on cover included two used at the Siege of Ladysmith and two covers signed by Lord Roberts who was affectionately called “Bobs” by the troops under his command.

Army Official Overprints were withdrawn on 12 May 1904 but examples of use between that date and 1914 were displayed.

David made his article “**Army Official Overprints 1896 to 1904**” published in **Gibbons Stamp Magazine Monthly** available to all present which was a fine souvenir of an outstanding evening.

President Graham thanked **David** for his magnificent display which was world class. It was beautifully mounted and demonstrated the 18 years of hard work which had gone into its production. He then called on the audience to express its appreciation in the usual way before thanking the tea makers and bringing the meeting to a close at 21.45 hours.

Graham Harker/Brian Asquith
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